

## Irish Genealogy Resources

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### Census of 1901 and 1911.

All earlier census records have been destroyed, either accidentally or sometimes on purpose. A few fragments exist.

### Birth, Marriage, and Death registers

Birth, marriage, and death registers exist from 1864 on. Protestant marriage records are available from 1845.

### Tithe Applotment records.

Earliest 1824, latest 1838. These records show names of people with long-term leases on Irish property. They are arranged by parish and broken down by townland. Family members are not included. The list was made to aid in converting the payment of tithes from an in-kind basis to a cash basis. Laborers, cottiers, weavers and city dwellers were not included. People of all denominations, and none, paid tithes to the Church of Ireland (Anglican.)

### Griffith's Primary Valuation of Ireland 1848-1864.

Lists every householder, but no family members. It includes acreage held, value of land, and owner of land. The purpose was to assist in determining rates (taxes) to pay for the establishment of poor houses. Arranged by county, parish, poor law union and barony.

### Flax Grower records of 1796.

Includes names of people who were given spinning wheels to encourage the growing of flax and the linen industry mainly in Northern Ireland. Entries are listed by county.

### 1776 Religious Census.

The Church of Ireland clergy were ordered to conduct this census. Some did it thoroughly, some didn't. In any case the records were

destroyed in the Four Courts fire in Dublin in 1922 during the Irish fight for independence. Some fragments or copies of returns for individual parishes survive.

### Church Registers

From time to time parishes did a census. For Devenish Parish in County Fermanagh, there is a well-done 1841 census of Protestants (members of the Church of Ireland). However it had one defect. The rector gave a count of his children and servants, but did not name them. I believe, but can't prove, that my great grandmother and great, great grandfather were among the servants.

The scarcity of public records makes church registers very important. Here again, there is a scarcity. Protestant Church records were gathered and stored in Dublin, but were burned in the Four Courts fire in 1922. Fortunately many parishes made copies before submitting the originals. Catholic church records vary greatly by date, but most often begin about 1825, sometimes earlier, but often later. Consequently it is difficult to find records of Catholic people born earlier than 1775 or so.

### Property and Tax Records

In general, property and tax records for Catholics don't exist and are scarce for Protestants. Over the centuries Catholic ownership of land was reduced to near zero percent. Rental records of estates are scattered with only fragments surviving.

There is no central collection point for estate records. Many estate records were lost when disaffected tenants set "Big Houses" on fire. (This happen where my Boyle ancestors lived

in County Tyrone.) There was a movement toward land reform in the late 1880s-early 1900s. The government eventually bought out estate owners and sold the land in small parcels to tenant farmers financed with 40-year loans. Ownership of land was finally returned to Catholics.

#### **Special Report on Surnames.**

Shows surnames and locations with five or more births in 1890. Some Irish names occur in many locations, but some are limited to one or a few locations. Worth a look!

#### **Index to the Townlands and Towns, Parishes and Baronies of Ireland 1851.**

Gives precise locations of townlands and indicates the size of the townland in acres. Townlands vary greatly in size from only a few acres to large areas.

#### **Gravestone Inscriptions**

Just like birth, marriage or death records, gravestone inscriptions are an important link with our ancestors, often providing additional or incidental information and, in the case of a family inscription, indicating relationships. In those cases where no other written information is available a headstone inscription may be the only tangible link with a forbear.

#### **Registry of Deeds**

The Registry of Deeds is intact from 1703 and contains six different parts:-

- Sales Assignments or Conveyances
- Rent Charges
- Leases
- Mortgages
- Marriage Settlements
- Wills

This registry is a complex source to use as there are literally thousands of

documents. The information held can vary greatly; for example a certain lease may show only one name, while another might provide information on three generations of a family. In order to make the best use of this source it is important to have a fairly accurate date of the sale, lease, mortgage, marriage or death of the testator (person who made the will).

#### **Irish Heritage Centers**

A system of county-based heritage centers in Ireland serves people interested in genealogy and family history. Each centre indexes and computerizes records of a particular county, although some centers only cover part of a county, and other centers may cover two counties. The staff of these centers will search their databases for a fee. If you know what county in Ireland your ancestors came from, one of the best ways of finding a more specific origin may be to write to one of these heritage centers. I used Irish World with success. <http://www.irish-world.com/>

Each county in Ireland is now covered by at least one heritage centre, although some centers do not offer direct search services or are temporarily closed. The centers for County Carlow and County Wexford are closed at this time. The link is a listing. <http://www.progenealogists.com/ireland/heritagecenters.htm>

#### **Boyle Genealogy Online**

My cousin put my genealogy articles and photos online using Microsoft Sway. <https://docs.com/boylend>

#### **Online Sources**

Many websites offer data for researching Irish sources. This website offers a compilation of best genealogy websites for reaching Irish Ancestors. [http://genealogy.about.com/od/ireland/tp/irish\\_databases.htm](http://genealogy.about.com/od/ireland/tp/irish_databases.htm)